REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated October 26, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 26, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Specification

The Examiner states that the title is not descriptive. In response, Applicants have amended the title as suggested by the Examiner.

Additionally, the specification is objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d). The Examiner states that the first plurality of termini unbiasely fixed has not been described as recited in claims 1-12. In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Applicants submit "the first plurality of termini unbiasely fixed" is supported by the figures and accompanying description in the specification as originally filed. As shown for example in Figures 1 and 3 and described in paragraph [0028], "each termini 24 is inserted into a keyed termini receiver hole 48." There is no description of or any structure shown providing a biasing force to these inserted termini. Hence, the meaning of the phrase "the first plurality of termini unbiasely fixed" may be ascertained by reference to the present application based on the foregoing support provided therein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner states the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Further, the Examiner states that the plurality of termini unbiasely fixed has not been described as recited in claims 1-12.

The Examiner has the initial burden of presenting by a preponderance of evidence why a person skilled in the art would not recognize in the disclosure a description of the invention defined by the claims. *Wertheim*, 541 F.2d 257, 263 (CCPA

1976). In rejecting a claim, the Examiner must set forth express findings of fact which support the lack of written description conclusion. *See,* MPEP § 2163.04(I). These findings should establish a *prima facie* case why a person skilled in the art at the time the application was filed would not have recognized that the inventor was in possession of the invention as claimed in view of the disclosure of the application as filed.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to provide the requisite criteria for establishing the § 112 rejection. However, Applicants further reply to the written description rejection by submitting that the phrase is adequately supported based on the discussion above regarding the objection to the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Goldman et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,229; hereinafter "*Goldman*"). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Further, the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Claim 1 recites that "the first plurality of termini is unbiasly fixed within the first connector." In contrast, both female and male members of the connector disclosed in *Goldman* have springs that provide a compressive force for urging faces of contacting ferrules together as described at column 7, line 55 to column 8 line 29. Therefore, *Goldman* fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1.

Applicants submit that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over *Goldman*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldman* in view of *Lampert* (U.S. Patent No. 5,067,783). Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldman* in view of *Knutsen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,759,601). Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldman* in view of *Linden et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,301,213).

Claims 3-4, 9-10 and 11-12 all depend from claim 1, which Applicants submit is patentable over *Goldman*. Accordingly, Applicants submit these claims are also patentable and request withdrawal of this rejection.

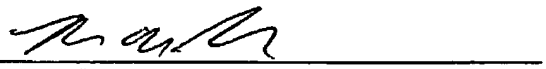
Double Patenting

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-15 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,685,361 ("the '361 patent"). In response, Applicants submit that the Examiner has incorrectly ignored a limitation not present in any claims of the '361 patent. Consequently, the present claims cannot claim the same invention as that claimed in the '361 patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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